

a vote or even a hearing, not a vote in committee, not a vote on the floor.

And now that the Republicans are in the majority and have a President, they want to prevent Democrats from taking the very same actions they have used. They are now trying to change the rules of the Senate in the middle of the game to try to take away the rights of the minority.

Senator Baker was correct in 1968 when he said the majority was not always right, and it is time Senate Republicans realize that their extreme power grab is not in the best interests of either this Congress or this Nation.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO DEBBIE PETERSON

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate Debbie Peterson from my district, a social worker at Pope High School. Last week, Habitat For Humanity named her the Southwest Regional Volunteer of the Year for Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. She is one of those special educators whose energy is contagious.

For her, Habitat For Humanity is more than building a house on the weekends. Sponsoring the Student Club is her way of giving back to the school, to the community, and to those who want a hand up and not a hand out, as Habitat's slogan states.

Throughout her 31 years in public service, Debbie Peterson has always remembered that it is about the students and their accomplishments. What have they done? Increased club membership from 25 students to 525, over one-quarter of the entire student body. Raised over \$160,000 for Habitat projects to build seven homes; become one of the five largest chapters of Habitat at U.S. colleges and high schools.

At the end of this school year, she will retire from Pope High School. The lessons she has taught the thousands of students who helped provide a hand up to countless others will last a lifetime. Congratulations Debbie Peterson.

#### MAKING PROGRESS IN SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

(Mr. KLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the progress, yes, the progress we are making towards meaningful reform of an ailing Social Security system.

Because of the efforts of my colleagues and President Bush to communicate the truth of the impending Social Security shortfall, Americans are talking, and their elected representatives are listening.

I know I am only one of many Members who have been hosting listening

sessions to hear the questions and concerns of my constituents on these important issues. On every one of these meetings, ideas are put forth. Many Members have translated these ideas into legislative proposals. Though the details differ, the message remains the same: we must do something to ensure Social Security will remain strong for our children and our grandchildren.

Unfortunately, not all Members are equally committed to solving the problem. Some opponents of reform have admitted that they would rather stand in the way of honest debate than be part of the solution. Mr. Speaker, this is a disservice to the constituents they represent and the millions of Americans who would benefit from reform.

I would encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

#### SUPPORT THE SAVE OUR WATERS FROM SEWAGE ACT

(Mrs. KELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong concerns about an EPA proposal that would allow local treatment plants to discharge inadequately treated sewage into our waterways. It is disappointing that the EPA would even consider a policy change that would worsen our Nation's water quality and threaten public health.

I am a cosponsor of the Save Our Waters From Sewage Act to prevent the EPA from finalizing this misguided initiative. The mere thought of routinely allowing human sewage that is only partly treated to be dumped into our local waterways is very disturbing.

The EPA's wastewater guidelines have generated understandable concerns among my constituents in Westchester, Dutchess, and Orange counties. They seriously undermine the protections in place for our water resources in the Hudson Valley. We have a responsibility to fully treat all wastewater.

We already face enough health and environmental risks in our local communities that are beyond our control. It is senseless to initiate a new policy that knowingly puts the public at greater health risk. When it comes to the safety of our water and our local citizens, it is far more important to do what is right than to do what is most convenient.

I want to thank my colleagues, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), for leading the fight to protect public health and prevent the EPA from enacting this policy. I urge support for the Save Our Waters From Sewage Act.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 415

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 415.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

#### CONDEMNING THE PRESENCE OF RACIALLY RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS IN HOUSING DOCUMENTS

(Mr. CLEAVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 259. I recently introduced this resolution to condemn the presence of racially restrictive covenants in housing documents.

Mr. Speaker, during the early 20th century, racially restrictive covenants were used in housing documents such as plats, deeds, and homeowner association bylaws to prevent racial, ethnic, and religious minorities from renting or buying property. While they are now illegal and technically unenforceable, most were never removed from housing documents. In my district alone, one survey identified more than 1,200 documents that still contain discriminatory language.

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In many jurisdictions, the process of removing racially restrictive covenants is administratively burdensome, time consuming and costly. This resolution urges States to adopt legislation similar to California and commends the Missouri State Senate for passing a bill that streamlines the process for removing these relics of the Jim Crow era.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 259 and join me in condemning racially restrictive covenants.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2361, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 287 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 287

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2361) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of